

World Health Organization

Delegation: Switzerland

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Topic A: Global Opioid Abuse

Opioid usage has been on the rise in many countries including the Swiss Confederation. This raises new concerns regarding addiction, medical issues, HIV spreads, and ultimately the surge in popularity amongst citizens. Global opioid usage surfaces controversial discussion surrounding its legalization and prohibition, however the Swiss Confederation strongly advocates for a middle ground supporting decriminalization accompanied with restrictions as well as rehabilitation efforts.

With the first package of measures on drugs from 1991, the Swiss Confederation developed a new approach to drug policy that no longer tried to achieve abstinence as a primary goal and instead worked towards support for the citizens (Troxler). For 25 years, Switzerland has applied a 'four pillars' policy: prevention, therapy, harm reduction and repression (law enforcement). Since its adoption, the number of deaths resulting from drug consumption has decreased, criminality has declined, the health of addicts has vastly improved and open drug scenes have disappeared (FOPH). The approach has been successful and is being emulated in various parts of the world.

Holding great significance being amongst the world's top performing in the pharmaceutical sector, Switzerland is greatly concerned by the effects of specifically medical intended opioids enhancing recent recreational appearances (Atradius). Currently Switzerland prioritizes medical research investment to lower opioid concentration in prescribed painkillers for patients. To further combat the opioid popularity issues, Switzerland recently has also made significant efforts towards funding rehabilitation services such as substitution therapy and controlled medical distribution. Such services allow addicts to visit a specialized center to receive a daily dose of the drug (Knopf). Part of this service also allows injections to take place on site, under the supervision of a medical team, thus mitigating the issue with HIVS/AIDS. In line with the 4 pillar policy effectiveness, Switzerland is willing to implement a similar global aid program dispatching such services to other countries. Switzerland strongly condemns any action to prohibit opioids entirely as history proves prohibition has only generated more problems than it solves.

Switzerland currently recognizes the complications with pursuing a decriminalization approach especially within third world countries, however this nation remains to hold strong beliefs in implementing a long term solution system as priority. Prohibition in the past has proven to halt progression of citizen dependency on hard drugs such as opioids, and with the transition towards decriminalization, Switzerland itself is full proof of this being an effective solution. Switzerland supports countries with similar values towards decriminalization, and promotes similar policies to the 4 Pillar policy Switzerland created to be implemented in other nations. When resources are limited, allocation towards aid will ensure a progressive solution whereas defiance will only render progression static.

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Topic B: COVID-19 Mitigation and Future Pandemic Preparedness

The COVID-19 pandemic inflicted drastic effects on people's health and social lives as well as on the economy. Much of the pandemic's terrible turns were based on the unpreparedness each country had to face. Nations faced challenges regarding improper allocation of their resources and attention. The most pressing issues many countries failed to prioritize was investing enough for such a pandemic, researching the roots of the issue for proper mitigation, and lack of trustworthy aids/preventive measures.

In the spirit of solidarity, Switzerland is responding quickly and effectively to the latest challenges through its international cooperation to mitigate three main issues; economic stability, resource provision, research and development. The Swiss Confederation has already taken measures in a number of countries to alleviate the economic and social effects of the pandemic and has so far contributed CHF 101.42 million to the global response to COVID-19("HKTDC Research"). Switzerland is also one of the few European countries that still has compulsory military service that during the current pandemic has been adapted to fit the situation and dispatched to provide aid in terms of protecting high-risk groups as well as carry out other security related services to ensure the pandemic is contained(World). The Swiss Confederation's top performing pharmaceutical sector also puts in immense efforts in the creation of counter medicine as well as further research into improving the quality and accessibility to such(O'Dea).

In a similar approach to Switzerland's previous responses to the global pandemic mitigation efforts, a conclusion has been reached where preparedness deserves priority. Preventative measures taken in the preliminary stages of a pandemic will include such actions of pre-investment towards both research in proper identification of the problem and specialized task forces that focuses on delivery of aids, treating victims of the pandemic, security of citizens, and performing proper procedures to treat the pandemic specific issues. The pre-investment will require a mutual donations based funding at the UN for specialized un provided aid, as well as individual countries must allocate enough money for their own pandemic use in terms of having enough for funding aids, security, and research. Investment towards research is amongst top priority as the research funds will be needed for identification of the issue and creating proper pharmaceutical counters towards the issue. The other part of the investment will go towards special task forces, which acts as an immediate response solution to contain the pandemic to a manageable size. This would not only limit the amount of resources a country would've needed in the case of a widespread infection, but also saves time for the mitigation processes.

Switzerland strongly supports a preventative take on a future pandemic rebound plan, to ensure that no pandemic as great as the COVID-19 pandemic will take place again. The Swiss confederation recognizes the possibility of a preventative measure falling, however still strongly holds its ground in believing that regardless of an outcome, a preventative measure is the greatest stride the world can currently take towards preparation of a future pandemic.

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